

THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



Publication of the Capital District Mineral Club, Inc.
Chartered by the Education Department of the State of New York
P.O. Box 12814, Albany, New York 12212-2814

February 2011

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is on Thursday February 3rd in the New York State Museum. The meeting starts at 7:30pm. Please sign in at the security desk when you enter. The doors to the museum will be held open from 7:00-7:15pm (sometimes earlier, but never later).

February Program

All those interested in creating a "painting" with polished stones, please bring your drawing to the February meeting. Rich Stein will bring the stones. Instead of a lecture, we will spend the allotted time matching, as best possible, the polished stones to your drawing. There should be enough polished material for everyone. Please also bring a container (several ?) for the material you plan to take home. Suggestion - sandwich bags, which can then be carried in a lunch bag. Suggestions for the mat on which to mount the "painting", and adhesive, will be provided. When completed, frames can be purchased from any number of stores in the area. This is intended to be a fun project, and a challenge. One last reminder - please avoid yellow in your pictures. Rich has still not found a source of naturally yellow stone to polish, and no suitable dye combination. If anyone has such a material, some can be processed in 6 to 7 weeks. ((Yes, it takes that long to produce acceptable polished stones, especially if the raw material is of good quality.))

-- Rich Stein

Volunteers for February Show

It is that time of year again. Time to donate some of your time for the good of the club. I will have a sign up sheet for people willing to donate some of their time for club table activities and ticket sales during the weekend of February 26-27. Also we will need a few brave soles for set-up and take-down on Friday night starting around 4pm (estimated) and Sunday night starting around 5:15pm. I'm going to continue the tradition of two people on the concourse level for ticket sales, so pair up before you sign up for that duty. Please contact Anne Woods if you wish to sign up for a time slot. (322-7932). Please see later in this newsletter for available times left.

- Anne Woods

Mineral Poster Distribution

Please pick up a dozen more - 20 or 30 or more - of the large Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show posters at the meeting on February 6 for distribution to schools, libraries, stores, bars, banks, city halls, restaurants, gas stations, auto parts stores, hairdressers, your mother's house, your workplace, doctor's

offices, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, churches, chimney cleaners, chamber of commerces, hardware stores, electronic stores, massage parlors, YMCA, YWCA, auto dealerships, office supplies, etc. Pick up a large bunch of the small posters, also. Distribute them anywhere people legally congregate. Please e-mail me at rbruce@cisbec.net or call me at 355-2146 and tell me where you dropped off the posters, how many large posters and how many small posters.

-Bruce and Charlyn Murray

Club Sandbox

If you have any donations for the sandbox at the club table, please get them to Bob Hartig (842-5948) as soon as you can so labels can be made up. During the show, Bob Hartig will be in charge of the people volunteering at the club table, so if you have any questions regarding your duties during the show, he is the man to see.

New Secretary Needed

As some of you know, elections were held recently, and we are in need of a new secretary. Anyone that feels that they are qualified for this position, please contact Bill Cotrofeld at 802-233-1339. Our past secretary Curtis stepped down in order to pursue his studies with all of his energy. We wish him well in this endeavour.

The Warwick Find:

New York's Next Great Mineral Story

The next great article in a national mineral magazine may be similar to this one. A result of the compilation of information derived from Mindat's online Message Board (at Mindat.org), this article describes, in short, a fantastic mineral find in the southern southeast tier of Orange County, New York. The piece goes to prove, as in numerous cases, that people "not interested in rocks and minerals" or persons just getting into the hobby may have "all the luck" in some great discovery. Fortunately, they are more than willing to share their fantastic story with others.

The Town of Warwick, New York, covers approximately 104 sq. miles. Amity, along with nearby Edenville, is among many unincorporated areas within the town. Amity is approximately 2 miles west of Edenville and mineral locality designations are almost synonymous. All the minerals listed for the Amity-Edenville area are derived from the Franklin Marble. Amity is near the center of the marble outcrop belt but Edenville is actually east of it in country underlain by dolomites and slate.

This area has attracted collectors since the early 19th century. The landscape is gradual and small, scattered outcrops yielded occasionally unusual mineral assemblages, such as vesuvianite or large spinels. Residual rocks and boulders were moved to make way for farming and took the form of stone fence rows. Presently the area is gradually suburbanizing and so exposures are occasionally available in the foundation excavations for the new houses, townhouses and apartments.

Fall of last year, a mass of crystals was found on a private property. The owner's first impression was that of crystallized feldspar. For whatever reason, he chose to post his find and an inquiry on Mindat.org. His message was favorably confirmed by experienced collectors. One collector suggested that crystals shown in his initial photo may be scapolite as similar groupings had been found off a roadcut near Hwy 62 Bancroft, Canada. Another collector offered confirmation of scapolite and perhaps orthoclase since he had seen a similar piece in a museum near Bear Mountain, New York. Also noted was the fact that nearby Rockland County, along a line nearly southeast of Warwick had produced very similar deposits within the Ramapo and Highlands Mountains area just west and north of New York City.

Immediate responses to his inquiry on the message thread grew and new theories abounded. A collector from nearby Amity made a claim to finding diopside and hedenbergite crystals. He also suggested that while generally feldspar crystals in the area had proven to be very crude, almost unidentifiable in form but that there was a distinct possibility that scapolite and feldspar were grouped or conjoined in closely associated crystallization. Yet another collector declared fluorapatite associated with calcite, diopside and scapolite was present since similar mineralization was found in nearby Twin Lakes off Route 6 near Harriman State Park.

The property owner was not interested in minerals or collecting when he first found the boulders harboring the immense crystals. Years ago he and his brother had bought the property as a business investment. The town required a geologist to examine such a property subdivision prior to sale. The report declared nothing of value for commonly surveyed minerals. (We simply conclude that the examination was for assay of common minerals such as gold, silver or oil.) However, the geologist did tell the brothers that "the area is rich in rare minerals." He did not elaborate and apparently the brothers remained clueless as to just exactly what those "minerals" may have been or where to search for them.

Our property owner spent the first several years on the newly acquired property wandering around in search of "rare minerals" declared by the geologist. Subsequently a small "trail of crystals" was observed on a path leading to some tree roots under a very large tree. In addition to the crystals under the tree, also discovered across the property was what he describes as "twenty boulder-sized groups of rocks with pockets. Some of the pockets contained crystals up to twelve inches in length." To date, he estimates, there are

"over a thousand pieces" within the groupings on a property that appears to be rich in assorted marble and granite boulders.

Although a complete novice to mineral identification, he was quickly educated by an avalanche of geological terms and mineralogical possibilities. Besides scapolite, feldspar, diopside and hedenbergite, he was introduced to fluorapatite, uvite, clintonite, granite, sphene, titanite, and amphibole groups (i.e. Actinolite, Edenite, Hornblende, Tremolite) and pyroxene groups (i.e. Augite, Coccoilite, Diopside and Hedenbergite, Pyrrhotite and Scapolite.)

The Warwick discovery also drew appropriate attention from some very well-known mineral institutions. The President of the famous Sterling Hill Mining Museum from Ogdensburg, New Jersey was his first contact. Interest was expressed in acquiring a large crystal grouping due to their association with the famous Franklin marble belt bordering the Jersey/New York line. Stating that similar groupings had weathered out of Franklin marble, he expressed a desire to visit the site, take photos and offer some professional help in identifying any questionable minerals.

Once contact was made by a representative of New Jersey interests, it was only a matter of time until he was called on by officials of the New York State Museum from Albany. Speaking on behalf of the museum, noted mineralogist Steve Chamberlain said, "I would hope that several of the best pieces might find their way into the collection of the NYSM." No sooner said, than done, NYSM Collections Manager Mike Hawkins drove down to Warwick from Albany late in October to examine the giant boulders and their pockets of crystals.

Wednesday, October 27th, four people from the NYS Museum arrived and viewed the minerals at the site. After examination they expressed great interest in several of the pieces. They also requested permission to run tests on unidentified mineral species. They identified Diopside, Scapolite, Fluorapatite, Phlogopite, Clintonite, Tremolite, Chondrodite, Hastingsite, Hematite, K Feldspar and possibly Fluorede-nite.

Approximately October 30, New Jersey's noted Franklin area team was on site. The news was even better than expected. It was determined that the species found were similar to those that got the famous Franklin region into the annals of mineralogy. Years ago, pockets of crystals were found the entire length of the Franklin marble region. Such finds included; "sixteen inch long augite crystals." four inch diameter garnets, scapolite, franklinite, gahnite and a biotite crystal twelve by eighteen inches in six. Many of the crystals had been weathered out of the matrix. These recent finds generated just as much excitement now as when Warwick originally gained fame on the mineralogical map. With all the attention and excitement, has the discovery changed the property owner? Perhaps just a little . . .

A hard working contractor, the property owner is turning into

a real rockhound. He is more knowledgeable now. Almost overnight he acquired an education in minerals and geology from interested well-wishers on Mindat. He has walked his property with experts from New York and New Jersey museums. With each day full of more information he walks along rock walls lining his property. He takes a closer and more experienced look at the pockets of his boulder strewn land. He has found some huge pieces. He has located large concentrations of crystals at certain parts along the an old wall. He has found pockets in smaller boulders that were just cast aside by early farmers who were more interested in what the land could produce to promote their livelihood. He has gained new insight as to the lay-of-the-land, the location of the crystals, the pocketed rocks and potential new areas of discovery. He looks for the smallest distance to nearby stone walls and triangulates potentially fresh collecting areas. Does he plan to get rich with his finds?

He states, " I am not a mineralogist, geologist or collector of minerals. . . But . . . a bit of a treasure hunter. I understand the passion of going out and digging every night til dark after work. I have put a lot of time and effort into carefully removing these crystals . . . and. . . have been doing the best we can to remove the crystals as carefully as possible. I would like some to go to museums and others to collectors that appreciate them. I will keep a select few. I'll continue to post more pictures and I appreciate everyones comments."

He isn't looking to sell them or put them on E-bay. He just wants to do the "right thing" which is to give experts and museums opportunity to come see what he has found because of the scientific value. He doesn't want people digging or wandering around his property. He just wants to share the experience and minerals with anyone who is interested.

He doesn't have to travel very far to search for interesting rocky formations. He has heavy equipment on his property and at hand. He has the passion and motivation to continue searching for every rockhounds dream. He doesn't have to worry about insurance or a location closing.

To date, from all available resources Mindat.org has 50 potential entries listed for the Warwick region. There has been validation of 35 species minerals: 2 type localities (valid minerals)*: Amphibole Group minerals, Apatite, Arsenopyrite, Augite, Calcite, Chondrodite, Chrysotile, Type Clintonite (TL)*, Corundum, "Dillage" Diopside, Enstatite, Epidote, Fluorborite, Fluorite, Ytterocerite/Fosterite, Graphite, Grossular, Hematite, Hercynite, Ilmenite, Magnesiohastingsite, Magnetite, Manasseite (TL), Meionite, Orthoclase, Pargasite, Phlogopite, Pyroxene Group, Rutile, Scapolite, Serendibite, Spinel, Talc, Titanite, Tremolite, Uvite, Vesuvianite, var.: Xanthite, Warwickite (TL)*, Zircon. Sounds as though our property owner has his work cut out for him if his property holds even a fraction of these suggested minerals.

Once a contractor from a somewhat remote Southern Tier location in New York is now, no doubt, envied by countless rock and mineral collectors from New York, New Jersey and around the world. Who wouldn't want to be in his place.

You can find follow the exploits of the unexpected mineral collector on www.mindat.org. Once on the website, begin your search with "Warwick find" and enjoy the fantastic fieldtrip with many accompanying photos and over ten pages of Message Board narration. You will also be able to keep up-to-date with any new developments.

References: Mindat.org, Message Board October, 2010 through January 22, 2011
-Don Kauffman

Show Dates

Jan 28- Feb 13—Tucson, AZ: Show; ColorWright; ColorWright Warehouse, 1201 N. Main Ave.; 10-6 daily; free admission; contact Rob Kulakofsky, (520) 792-1439; e-mail: rk3@color-wright.com; Web site: www.rglshow.com; Jan 29-Feb 12— "Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; The Hotel Tucson City Center (formerly InnSuites), 475 N. Granada; "Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; The Mineral & Fossil Marketplace, 1333 N. Oracle Rd.; "Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Quality Inn-Benson Hwy., 1025 E. Benson Hwy.; "Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Ramada Ltd., 665 N. Freeway; 10-6 daily, final day 10-5; free admission; more than 400 dealers, four locations, free shuttle; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665; e-mail: mzexpos@aol.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com; Jan 31- Feb 6—: Wholesale show; Arizona Global Gem & Jewelry; The Hotel Arizona, 181 W. Broadway; Mon. 10-6, Tue. 10-6, Wed. 10-6, Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; contact Ron Swanson, (520) 396-4469; e-mail: ron@aggjs.com; Web site: www.aggjs.com; Feb 10- Feb 13: Show; Tucson Gem & Mineral Society; Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church St.; Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$10, seniors and active military \$2 off Fri. admission, children under 14 free with adult; contact TGMS, P.O. Box 42588, Tucson, AZ 85733, (520) 322-5773; e-mail: tgms@tgms.org; Web site: www.tgms.org

Feb 1-28—Quartzsite, AZ: Show, "Desert Gardens International Gem & Mineral Show"; Desert Gardens RV Park; 1064 Kuehn St. (I-10 Exit 17, south side); 9-6 daily; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; contact Sharon or Sandy, 1064 Kuehn St., Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: info@desertgardensrvpark.net; Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

February 26 & 27, 2011 - 18th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show - Albany, New York: New York State Museum, Empire Plaza, Madison Ave. Saturday & Sunday 10-5. General Admission \$6 (includes Flower Show). Children under 12: Free. 25 dealers, museum tours, fossil & mineral ID. Information: Michael Hawkins @ 518 486-2011 or mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov

Mineral Show Volunteers – February 19 & 20, 2011

If you wish to sign up for a time slot, please call Anne Woods at 322-7932 or email her at schmanie@albanyrockclub.com. I will try my best to put you at a time you like.

TABLE SET UP FRIDAY NIGHT (3:30pm - ?)---Set Up Club Table: (2-4 members)

Tasks: Help set-up the club table to look good for Saturday morning.

Anne Woods	Robert Stitham	Bruce Murray - Lapidary
		Rich Stein - Mineral Meals

DEALER SET UP : Help Mike Hawkins with Dealers: (3-6 people)(4:30pm - ?)

Tasks: getting empty carts for dealers from all over the museum, riding elevator, teamwork

Jim Palmer	Deb Hewson	Bill Cotrofeld
Anne Woods (later)	Robert Stitham (later)	

TICKET SALES SATURDAY (9:15AM – 1:00PM)

Tasks: sell tickets to mineral and flower people for the museum

Richard Hartnett	MAIN LEVEL
Anne Woods	MAIN LEVEL
Johanna Horowitz	CONCOURSE LEVEL
Alex Horowitz	CONCOURSE LEVEL

TICKET SALES SATURDAY (1:00PM – 5:15PM)

Tasks: sell tickets to mineral and flower people for the museum

Max Fischer	MAIN LEVEL
	MAIN LEVEL
	CONCOURSE LEVEL
	CONCOURSE LEVEL

TICKET SALES SUNDAY (9:15AM – 1:00PM)

Tasks: sell tickets to mineral and flower people for the museum

Richard Hartnett	MAIN LEVEL
Jo-anna Michelek	MAIN LEVEL
Max Fisher	CONCOURSE LEVEL
	CONCOURSE LEVEL

TICKET SALES SUNDAY (1:00PM – 5:15PM)

Tasks: sell tickets to mineral and flower people for the museum

Jim Palmer	MAIN LEVEL
Charlyn Murray	MAIN LEVEL
Jo-anna Michelek	CONCOURSE LEVEL
	CONCOURSE LEVEL

CLUB TABLE SATURDAY (9:45AM – 1:30PM)

Pam Hartig	MEMBERSHIP
	CASHIER
Jane Kaplan	SAND BOX
Bob Hartig	SAND BOX
Bill Cotrofeld	FLOATER
Robert Stitham	FLOATER

CLUB TABLE SATURDAY (1:30PM – 5:15PM)

	MEMBERSHIP
	CASHIER
Deb Hewson	SAND BOX
	SAND BOX
Bill Cotrofeld	FLOATER
Robert Stitham	FLOATER

CLUB TABLE SUNDAY (9:45AM – 1:30PM)

	MEMBERSHIP
	CASHIER
Bob Hartig	SAND BOX
	SAND BOX
Bill Cotrofeld	FLOATER
Robert Stitham	FLOATER

CLUB TABLE SUNDAY (1:30PM – 5:15PM)

Deb Hewson	MEMBERSHIP
	CASHIER
	SAND BOX
	SAND BOX
Bill Cotrofeld	FLOATER
Robert Stitham	FLOATER

HELP DEALERS LEAVE SUNDAY NIGHT (5:15PM - ?) (4-6 persons)

Tasks: getting empty carts for dealers from all over the museum, riding elevator, teamwork

Jim Palmer	Kevin Finn
Robert Stitham	Anne Woods
Deb Hewson	Bill Cotrofeld

CLUB TABLE TASKS

MEMBERSHIP (encourage people to join, have them fill out membership form, field trip waiver form, write out receipt, and give membership packet)
CASHIER (takes money for sandbox, membership, etc., placing the money in the appropriate envelope provided)
SAND BOX (assist children in choosing 25 cent minerals, marbles can be exchanged for anything, they can pay before or after looking, after child chooses specimen, one of the two people must find the label and place it in the bag with the specimen)
FLOATER (relieves members from club table and ticket sales for lunch and whatnot for 5 minutes to a half hour if necessary)
DISPLAY CABINETS (all volunteers at the club table are responsible for helping people who wish to know what rocks are in the display cabinets)
POWERPOINT (all volunteers at club table are responsible for helping people who have questions about the powerpoint)
MINERAL MEALS AND LAPIDARY (all volunteers (club and ticket) should alert newcomers of mineral meal display and lapidary displays done by our club members)

CAPITAL DISTRICT MINERAL CLUB
P.O. BOX 12814
ALBANY, NY 12212-2814

Officers:

President	Bill Cotrofeld	802-375-6782
Vice Pres	Debra Hewson	802-379-1636
Secretary	unknown	
Treasurer	Robert Hartig	518-842-5948

Newsletter Staff:

Anne Woods schmanie@albanyrockclub.com
Don Kauffman - articles
Richard Hartnett - articles
Ken St. John - articles
Teresa Breuer - distribution

Website:

<http://www.albanyrockclub.com>

All submissions to the newsletter must be in my hand before the 18th of any given month, or they will be used in the next subsequent newsletter.

The purpose of our club is:

- To promote and encourage the study of mineralogy and other applied sciences.
- To cooperate with educational and scientific institutions in order to bring about a better and more general understanding of earth sciences.
- To provide a program with suitable speakers for scheduled meetings.
- To sponsor, direct, and assist in the planning of excursions to mineral localities and other places of geological interest.
- To cooperate with organizations whose purposes are similar to those stated in the foregoing items.

The Capital Rockhounder and the Capital District Mineral Club are not responsible for the accuracy or authenticity of any information in the articles printed in this newsletter. Nor are the opinions here expressed necessarily those of the officers of the Capital District Mineral Club nor of the Newsletter Staff as a whole.